Amendments to the Specification

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 18 with the following:

Numerous aspects of disc drive technology that are not a part of the present invention (or are well known in the art) are omitted for brevity, avoiding needless distractions from the essence of the present invention. These include ~~(1)~~ detailed mechanisms for the construction, selection, or movement of heads, and ~~;(2)~~ mechanisms for deriving a signal indicative of stable biasing, track following, or other signals indicative of readiness to transmit user data~~; and (3)~~ [[_____]]. Although the examples below show more than enough detail to allow those skilled in the art to practice the present invention, subject matter regarded as the invention is broader than any single example below. The scope of the present invention is distinctly defined, however, in the claims at the end of this document.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 line 1 with the following:

Fig. 1 shows a basic method of the present invention which operates upon several values stored in a table. Fig. 2 shows table 230, which includes blocks of stored values 229 indexed by a plurality of zone identifiers 228. Zone identifiers are exemplified as integers starting from zero, as is conventional in the art. The method comprises steps 11 - 17 of Fig. 1, in which it is assumed that the location (and zone) of the data segment to be read is given. In step 12, several values 229 indexed by zone identifier 228 are retrieved from table 230. In step 14, the values are transmitted across a bus to update several of the registers that control the read channel. The retrieving step 12 and the transmitting step 14

are optionally performed simultaneously or alternately in increments, preferably by DMA controller 220. Active head(s) are positioned in the target segment's zone ~~5~~015preferably by a seek operation performed concurrently with retrieving step 12 and transmitting step 14. After the completion of the last of steps 12, 14, and 15, the target segment is [[be]] read 16. Note that the method of Fig. 1 may be performed repeatedly in reading a file with portions in more than one data zone.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 line 12 with the following:

Concerning M and N, data on a disc surface is conventionally divided into "frames" (typically less than that which can fit in a track) each containing a number of sectors (an integer conventionally designated as "N") and also containing a number of servo marks (an integer conventionally designated as "M"). Further background relating to calculations of sector and servo mark counts is found in U.S. Patent 5,768,043 ("Table Driven Method and Apparatus for Automatic Split Field Processing") issued to Nemazie et al. on June 16, 1998. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, some of the retrieved data will be used to update operating parameters derived from M or N, M or N having values that differ across at least one zone boundary of a disc surface. Note that in the depiction of Fig. 2, M and N are encoded in just two bits to conserve space in the value table 230. Each of these integers may alternatively be represented by a respective byte, where table space is at less of a premium.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10 line 25 with the following:

A preferred embodiment of the present invention performs calculations upon at least some values read from the table before using the values to update register values. As a simple example, suppose that a block of data is needed from each of two adjacent zones Z_A and Z_B which have the same bit density (e.g. in bits per inch, BPI). Suppose further that a register value to be updated indicates the circumferential length of the target segment in inches. After reading the block from zone Z_A, a suitable embodiment of the present invention updates the register value by retrieving the bit density associated with zone Z_B. Then, the embodiment ~~multiplies~~ divides the length (1 block) by the new bit density (after multiplying by the constant number of bits per block). This update does not result in a change of the register value.